

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-18 Cancelled.

19. (New) An orthopedic device for the spine, comprising:

a plate assembly having an adjustable length and defining integral means for coupling the plate assembly on vertebral bone;

at least one bone fastener for coupling the plate assembly to vertebral bone using the integral means for coupling the plate assembly;

means for adjusting the length of the plate assembly;

means for locking the length of the plate assembly; and

means for inserting the at least one bone fastener into the vertebral bone polyaxially at any of a plurality of selectable angles of relative to the plate assembly.

20. (New) The device of claim 19, wherein the means for locking the length of the plate assembly comprises a threaded bore and a set screw passing between the means for adjusting the length of the plate assembly and into the threaded bore.

21. (New) The device of claim 19, further comprising:

means for locking the bone fastener at a selectable angle relative to the plate assembly.

22. (New) The device of claim 21, wherein the means for locking the bone fastener include at least one through-hole in the plate assembly and a coupling element insertable into the at least one through-hole and rotationally coupling a head of the bone fastener.

23. (New) An orthopedic device for the spine comprising:

a first longitudinal plate having an end defined by at least two longitudinal prongs;

a second longitudinal plate having a longitudinal bore, the longitudinal bore adapted to receive the prongs for longitudinal translation therein through a plurality of positions;

a lock assembly for locking the prongs within the bore at one of the plurality of positions;

at least one through-hole in at least one of the first and second plates; and

at least one bone fastener for coupling the plate assembly to vertebral bone through the at least one through-hole at any of a plurality of variable angles relative to the plate assembly.

24. (New). The device of claim 23, further comprising a coupling element insertable into the at least one through-hole and rotationally coupling a head of the bone fastener.

25. (New) The device of claim 23, wherein the lock assembly comprises a threaded bore and a set screw passing between the prongs and into the threaded bore.